MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir, I will omit. May I know whether he will consider the claims of L. T. Muslim graduates seeking admission into the department?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): According to the Report of the Education Reforms Committee, further representation of Muslim graduates in the department will be considered.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether a Muslim graduate with Urdu as second language applied for a post in the department?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*). The answer is 'yes'.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether he has been entertained in the department?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the reason for that?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): His application is under consideration.

Flood damage in Nedumangad taluk.

35. ***MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the extent of loss the people of Nedumangad taluk suffered due to floods in the month of Edavam 1108 in the matter of the destruction of buildings, destruction of crops, etc.;

(*b*) whether the Government have done anything towards the relief of the agriculturists who have sustained serious loss and damages to their paddy fields and paddy cultivation;

(*c*) whether they are aware that the major portion of paddy fields in Nedumangad taluk has become unfit for cultivation due to recent floods; and

(*d*) whether the Government have taken any measures to ascertain the amount required to remove the silt, to restore the waterways to their orignal condition and thereby make the paddy fields fit for cultivation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): (*a*) 310 buildings were damaged by the floods in Edavam 1108. In all the 16 *pakuthies* together, the crops on a total extent of 1,089 acres and 87·25 cents of paddy lands were damaged. The Tahsildar has estimated the loss at Rs. 13,890 under damage to buildings and Rs. 20,417 under destruction of crops.

(*b*) Yes. Statements for remission of the Kanni crop assessment on the damaged lands have been called for and are being prepared for necessary action. Particulars of damage caused by breaches of bunds and silting up of paddy lands are also being collected for necessary action. Immediate relief was rendered in the shape of money doles at the rate

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[Mr. K. George.]

of Rs. 3 per house owner to 63 house-owners, who were the poorest among those rendered homeless by the floods. Action is being taken for getting as many of the breaches to irrigation channels and tanks repaired by the P. W. D. as possible. Government have also issued instructions to the P. W. D. for the prompt execution of the necessary repairs to roads, irrigation tanks and *todus*.

(c) An extent of 1,089 acres and 87·25 cents of paddy lands has been rendered unfit for cultivation by being silted up with sand etc.

(*d*) The closing of the breaches of *todus* and tanks, removing sand and silt from the fields, and rendering them fit for cultivation is estimated by the local Tahsildar to cost about a sum of Rs. 34,102.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the fate of the cultivators whose paddy lands have become completely useless?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): They cannot cultivate them until the silt is removed.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government intend reducing the tax?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No. They are arranging to have a remission as will be seen from the answer.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the remission be granted till the paddy fields become useful?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I cannot say that. Government are taking statistics of fields which have been damaged and where the crops have failed on account of the floods. Remission will be granted when the statements called for from the Tahsildars are received.

Export of Tea seeds.

36. *MR S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the exportation of tea seeds to foreign countries from Travancore is prohibited by Customs Notification?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Under Customs Notification R. O. C. No. 699/33/Devt., dated the 3rd June 1933, the export of tea seeds from Travancore is prohibited with effect from the 7th June 1933.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there are tea estates that are specially intended for the collection of tea seeds?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the nature of the Agastiar Tea Estate?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether, in the face of the above notification, the tea estate owners, whose estates are specially intended for the collection of tea seeds alone, will be rendered any help?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): If an application is made by the owners, the question will be considered.

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